



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
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DECEMBER RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production during December 2014 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was down 7 percent from December 2013. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 930,000 pounds live weight, down 12 percent from December 2013. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,000 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 32 pounds from the previous year, at 965 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 155,000 pounds live weight, up 19 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 15 pounds from the previous year, at 279 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States – Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.14 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 4.14 billion pounds produced in December 2013.

Beef production, at 2.00 billion pounds, was 2 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.44 million head, down 5 percent from December 2013. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,363 pounds.

Veal production totaled 7.6 million pounds, 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 43,000 head, down 35 percent from December 2013. The average live weight was up 51 pounds from last year, at 302 pounds.

Pork production, a record high for December, totaled 2.11 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.85 million head, up 1 percent from December 2013. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 13.4 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2013. Sheep slaughter totaled 200,000 head, slightly above last year. The average live weight was 134 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

January to December 2014 commercial red meat production was 47.3 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2013. Accumulated beef production was down 6 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was down 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down slightly.

December 2013 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

December 2014 contained 23 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.